

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising:  
a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising at least 100 amino acids, wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~and SEQ ID NO:6~~ have has at least 80% identity to SEQ ID NO: 6 or SEQ ID NO: 8, based on the Clustal alignment method, wherein the polypeptide is a WUS protein which stimulates *in vitro* growth of plant tissue.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The isolated polynucleotide of Claim 1, wherein the polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:6, or SEQ ID NO:8.
4. (Currently Amended) The isolated polynucleotide of Claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:5, or SEQ ID NO:7.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) The complement of the polynucleotide of any one of Claims 1, 3, and 4, ~~or 5~~, wherein the complement and the polynucleotide consist of the same number of nucleotides and are 100% complementary.

7. (Currently Amended) The isolated polynucleotide of any one of Claims 1, 3 and 4, ~~or 5~~, wherein the polynucleotide is a functional RNA.
8. (Original) The complement of Claim 6, wherein the complement is a functional RNA.
9. (Previously Presented) A method for transiently modulating the level of WUS protein in a plant cell comprising introducing the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 7 into the plant cell.
10. (Previously Presented) A method for transiently modulating the level of WUS protein in a plant cell comprising introducing the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 8 into the plant cell.
11. (Currently Amended) A chimeric gene comprising the polynucleotide of any one of Claims 1, 3, and 4, ~~or 5~~, operably linked to a suitable regulatory sequence.
12. (Original) A transgenic plant comprising the chimeric gene of claim 11.
13. (Original) The transgenic plant of Claim 12, wherein the plant is corn, soybean, wheat, rice, alfalfa, sunflower, canola, or cotton.
14. (Original) A seed from the transgenic plant of Claim 12.
15. (Original) The seed of Claim 14, wherein the seed is from corn, soybean, wheat, rice, alfalfa, sunflower, canola, or cotton.

16-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method for inducing meristem proliferation in a plant cell comprising:
- (a) transforming a plant cell with the chimeric gene of Claim 11, and
  - (b) expressing the polynucleotide for a time sufficient to produce a ~~transformed~~ meristem proliferation.
20. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 19 further comprising growing the ~~transformed~~ proliferated meristem under plant growing conditions to produce a regenerated plant.
21. (Currently Amended) A plant produced by the method of Claim 20, wherein the plant comprises the chimeric gene.
22. (Original) The plant of Claim 21, wherein the plant is corn, soybean, wheat, rice, alfalfa, sunflower, canola, or cotton.
23. (Previously Presented) A method for positive selection of a transformed cell, comprising:
- (a) transforming a plant cell with the chimeric gene of Claim 11, and
  - (b) expressing the polynucleotide for a time sufficient to induce organogenesis and provide a positive selection means.
24. (Original) The method of Claim 23 wherein the polynucleotide is excised.
25. (Original) The method of Claim 24 wherein the polynucleotide is flanked by FRT sequences to allow FLP mediated excision of the polynucleotide.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for transforming a plant cell comprising introducing the polynucleotide of any one of Claims 1, 3, and 4, ~~or 5~~, into the cell.
27. (Currently Amended) The transformed plant cell produced by the method of Claim 26, wherein the plant cell comprises the polynucleotide.
28. (Currently Amended) A method for transforming a plant cell comprising introducing the complement of Claim 6 into the cell.
29. (Currently Amended) The transformed plant cell produced by the method of Claim 28, wherein the plant cell comprises the complement.
- 30-35. (Cancelled)
36. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising growing the transformed plant cell under plant growing conditions to produce a regenerated plant.
37. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising growing the transformed plant cell under plant growing conditions to produce a regenerated plant.
38. (New) A transformed plant produced by the method of claim 36, wherein the plant comprises the polynucleotide.
39. (New) A transformed plant produced by the method of claim 37, wherein the plant comprises the complement.

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40. (New) The plant of claim 38, wherein the plant is corn, soybean, wheat, rice, alfalfa, sunflower, canola, or cotton.
41. (New) The plant of claim 39, wherein the plant is corn, soybean, wheat, rice, alfalfa, sunflower, canola, or cotton.